

PASSIVES: USING OR OMITTING AGENTS

Directions: Change each sentence to the present progressive, the past progressive, or the future form of the passive. Omit the agent whenever it isn't necessary.

1. Some painters were painting the office yesterday afternoon.
Example: *The office was being painted yesterday afternoon.*
(The agent is obvious from the meaning of the sentence.)
2. A painter from Scranton will paint the house.
Example: *The house will be painted by a painter from Scranton.*
(The sentence tells us something about the agent.)
3. The vendors are constantly decreasing the prices at the farmer's market.
4. At the meeting, the vice-president will present the new policies.
5. They're taking applications for summer employment at the grocery store.
6. When a pipe burst in our bathroom, the water ruined our new floor.
7. The police will arrest the protesters if they don't leave soon.
8. At that moment, someone was unlocking the door.
9. A mechanic was repairing my aunt's van at the garage when the commotion started.
10. People who drink hard liquor are causing many accidents.
11. Authors are writing many books about nutrition and health.
12. Next semester, the college will require undergraduates to take five courses each semester.

Directions: Change the active sentences to the passive.

Example: Nobody has invited Jane to the reception.

Response: Jane hasn't been invited to the reception.

1. Somebody established the Red Cross in 1864.
2. When did someone establish this university?
3. Nobody will collect the trash tomorrow.
4. People spell "hiding" with one "d."

5. Somebody collects the trash on Fridays.
6. People don't spell "hiding" with two "d's."
7. People spell "hidden" with two "d's."
8. Somebody is going to build a new library next year.
9. When did somebody build the Panama Canal?
10. Tim wrote that composition.
11. The University of Michigan has accepted me.
12. People don't teach trigonometry in elementary school.
13. People held the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul.
14. Nobody delivers the mail on Sundays.
15. Will someone deliver the mail on Saturday?
16. Someone made my MP3 player in Hong Kong.
17. Where did someone make your MP3 player?
18. My grandfather made that rocking chair.
19. Nobody has ever hypnotized me.
20. Did my instructions confuse you?